

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL ON CYPRUS SITUATION

WASHINGTON POST, ON SATURDAY APRIL 5, CARRIED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL UNDER HEADLINE "CYPRUS GOES DEEPER UNDER:"

BEGIN TEXT: TURKEY, SIX MONTHS WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, SEEMS FINALLY TO BE ASSEMBLING ONE NOW. IT WOULD BE LED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL, A RIGHTIST WHO WAS KICKED OUT IN 1971 BY THE ARMY, WHICH PRESUMABLY REMEMBERS. JUST HOW MUCH THE LONG GOVERNMENTAL "CRISIS" HAS PAINED THE TURKS IS PROBLEMATICAL BECAUSE THEY HAVE USED THE INTERVAL FOR THE UNIFYING NATIONALISTIC PURPOSE OF TIGHTENING THEIR MILITARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE GRIP ON CYPRUS AND AVOIDING NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE ISLAND. THIS IS ABOUT THE ONE THING TURKS AGREE ON. OTHERWISE THEY ARE TORN BY ALL THE TENSIONS OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY SEEKING A VIABLE MODERN IDENTITY. FEW STUDENTS OF TURKISH POLITICS EXPECT MR. DEMIREL TO BREAK THIS PATTERN. HE IS VULNERABLE MOST OF ALL TO ANYTHING THAT HIS RIVALS, OR FOR THAT MATTER HIS SUPPORTERS, COULD CONSIDER A COMPROMISE ON CYPRUS.

THE PATTERN IN WASHINGTON DOES NOT SEEM TO BE BREAKING, EITHER. CONGRESS, WITH GOOD BUT LIMITED REASON, CUT OFF UNCLASSIFIED

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MILITARY AID TO TURKEY TWO MONTHS AGO. TO GIVE A FOREIGN-

POLICY JUSTIFICATION TO AN ACT TAKEN ESSENTIALLY ON DOMESTIC GROUNDS, HOWEVER, THE CONGRESS WAS FORCED TO ADOPT A PARTICULAR VIEW OF THE TURKISH CHARACTER, NAMELY, THAT THE TURKS, IF SQUEEZED HARD ENOUGH, WOULD RETREAT ON CYPRUS TO BECOME ELIGIBLE AGAIN FOR AID. LIKE RICHARD NIXON IN RESPECT TO HANOI, THE CONGRESS SAID IN RESPECT TO ANKARA: KEEP THE PRESSURE ON. ONE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THAT ALL OF US WOULD HAVE LEARNED TO BE MORE RESPECTFUL OF THE POWER OF AN AROUSED NATIONALISM. IN ANY EVENT, THE TURKS SO FAR SHOW NO SIGNS OF BUDGING. PERHAPS THE BEST ONE CAN SAY IS THAT TURKEY'S OWN POLITICS WOULD BE COMPLICATING THE CYPRUS QUESTION PLENTY, EVEN IF WASHINGTON'S POLITICS WERE NOT ALSO IN PLAY. THE WORST ONE CAN SAY IS THAT CONGRESS IS DRIVING AN ALLY OUT OF NATO WITHOUT HELPING CYPRUS. UNHAPPILY THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW REQUEST TO LIFT THE AID BAN IS STILL DOMINATED BY PERSONAL DEFENSIVENESS AND INSTITUTIONAL PRIDE.

MEANWHILE, CYPRUS GOES DEEPER UNDER. THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH GETS ONLY THE POLITICAL BASKET CASES, IS TRYING TO RESTART COMMUNAL TALKS BETWEEN GREEK CYPRIOTS AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS. BUT THE TURKS AREN'T BUDGING HERE, EITHER. IT IS NOT THE UNITED NATIONS' FAULT THAT IT IS GETTING NOWHERE. THE MANEUVERS IN THAT FORUM TURN ON NUANCES OF DIPLOMACY PHRASING WITH NO VISIBLE RELEVANCE TO THE RAW FACTS OF POWER. AND ON THE DIVIDED ISLAND, SHOOTING GOES ON FROM TIME TO TIME. THE GREEK CYPRIOT MAJORITY WALLOWS IN DESPAIR. MORE AND MORE, ENOSIS OR UNION WITH GREECE SEEMS LIKELY TO BE THAT MAJORITY'S EVENTUAL FATE. THE TURKISH CYPRIOT MINORITY IS BEING KNIT INTO A SIMPLE PROVINCE OF TURKEY. SOME 80-ODD NEW NATIONS WERE CREATED OUT OF THE OLD COLONIAL EMPIRES AFTER WORLD WAR II. CYPRUS COULD YET BECOME THE FIRST OF THEM TO BE WIPED COMPLETELY OFF THE MAP. THEN SOME GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD PROBABLY START ALL OVER AGAIN AND WOULD SEEK A STATE OF THEIR OWN BY TERROR.

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